UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/300
10 April 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

1. On 22 February 1997 two Kuwaiti Coast Guard vessels seized an Iraqi fishing boat with five Iraqis on board. The fishing boat was at the time 100 metres inside Iraqi territorial waters in the area between Mina' al-Bakr and Mina' al-Amayah. The Iraqis thus abducted were: Wujdan Majid Abd al-Aziz; Qusayy Khalil Ibrahim Khalil; Ahmad Shakir Sharri; Muhammad Abbud Rahim; and Abd al-Azim Mansur Ali.

2. At 0730 hours on 9 March 1997 near buoy 15 a Kuwaiti helicopter hovered very low over the Iraqi tug Hamdan and engaged in acts of provocation.

I request you to intervene with Kuwait with a view to ensuring the safety of the Iraqis involved and securing their immediate return to Iraq together with their boat and in order to induce Kuwait to desist from these repeated acts of aggression and provocation. These actions are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of public international law given that they are in flagrant violation of the sovereignty of a State Member of the United Nations and constitute a serious offence against its nationals. In accordance with the principle of State responsibility, I also affirm the right of the Republic of Iraq to seek compensation for all the damage caused to its nationals and its property by these unwarranted actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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